

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1501

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development, &
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development, &
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member Quigley:

As you craft the fiscal year 2024 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$5,000,000 in community project funding for the construction of the Smart Automation and Robotics Center. The entity receiving the funding for this project is Hawkeye Community College, located at 1501 E Orange Road, Waterloo, IA 50704.

This project will provide the infrastructure needed to support community development and growth in a blighted area of downtown Waterloo, Iowa, while providing the community, industry, and technical sector the education and skills needed to strengthen Iowa manufacturing and innovation. Iowa is in critical need of training for the rapidly growing and innovating manufacturing workforce to transition from Industry 2.0 and 3.0 jobs (manual and repetitive) to Industry 4.0 (robotics and automation).

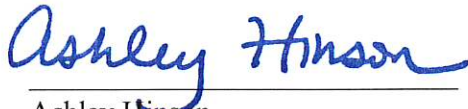
If awarded, this funding would assist in the acquisition of space and construction for this facility in a manufacturing hub in Waterloo, Iowa, that directly feeds into several manufacturing businesses and supports our domestic supply chain. The Smart Automation and Robotics Center will allow students and incumbent workers across Iowa to gain skills in a fast-tracked program. As a working lab and manufacturing incubator, the Center will provide the equipment and expertise needed to research and develop processes for businesses that can then be implemented to stay competitive and viable in the industry.

Manufacturing accounts for almost 18 percent of GDP across Iowa and 30 percent regionally, which underscores the need for Iowans to be prepared for this fourth industrial revolution. This project will directly impact economic activity across the country, including sectors vital to our

national security and the resiliency of our domestic supply chain, like the defense industry and health care manufacturing.

I strongly urge the Committee to include this community project funding request in the FY24 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill.
Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Ashley Hinson

Member of Congress

Committee on Appropriations